
T H E

C R I S I S.

NUMBER, LXXXV, *To be continued every Saturday,*
DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

SATURDAY, August 30, 1776, Price Two-pence Half-penny.

From the LONDON GAZETTE of August 24.

Whitehall, August 24.

CAPTAIN HOPE arrived on Wednesday evening last from South Carolina, with dispatches from Commodore Sir Peter Parker and Lieutenant General Clinton.

Extract of a letter from Sir Peter Parker to Mr. Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty, dated within Charles-Town Bar, July 9.



It having been judged adviseable to make an attempt upon Charles Town, in South Carolina, the fleet sailed from Cape Fear on the 1st of June, and on the 4th anchored off Charles Town Bar. The 5th sounded the Bar, and laid down buoys preparatory to the intended entrance of the harbour. The 7th all the frigates and most of the transports got over the Bar into Five-fathom Hole. The 9th Gen. Clinton landed

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on Long Island with about 400 or 500 men. The 10th the Bristol got over the Bar with some difficulty. The 15th gave the captains of the squadron my arrangement for the attack of the batteries on Sullivan's Island, and the next day acquainted Gen. Clinton that the ships were ready. The General fixed on the 23d for our joint attack, but the wind proving unfavourable, prevented its taking effect. The 25th the Experiment arrived, and the next day came over the Bar, when a new arrangement was made for the attack. The 28th, at half an hour after nine in the morning, informed General Clinton, by signal, that I should go on the attack. At half an hour after ten I made the signal to weigh; and about a quarter after eleven the Bristol, Experiment, Active, and Solebay, brought up against the fort. The Thunder Bomb, covered by the Friendship armed vessel, brought the sailant angle of the East bastion to bear N. W. by N. and Colonel James (who has ever since our arrival been very anxious to give the best assistance) threw several shells a little before and during the engagement in a very good direction. The Sphinx, Actæon, and Syren, were to have been to the westward, to prevent fire-ships or other vessels from annoying the ships engaged, to enfilade the works, and, if the rebels should be driven from them, to cut off their retreat if possible. This last service was not performed, owing to the ignorance of the pilot, who ran the three frigates aground. The Sphinx and Syren got off in a few hours, but the Actæon remained fast till the next morning, when the Captain and officers thought proper to scuttle and set her on fire. I ordered a court-martial on the Captain, officers, and company, and they have been honourably acquitted. Captain Hope made his armed ship as useful as he could on this occasion, and he merits every thing that can be said in his favour. During the time of our being abreast of the fort, which was near ten hours, a brisk fire was kept up by the ships, with intervals, and we had the satisfaction, after being engaged two hours, to oblige the rebels to slacken their fire very much. We drove large parties several times out of the fort, which were replaced by others from the main. About half an hour after three, a considerable reinforcement from Mount Pleasant hung a man on a tree at the back of the fort, and we imagine that the same party ran away about an hour after, for the fort was then totally silenced, and evacuated for near an hour and a half; but the rebels finding that our army could not take possession, about six o'clock a considerable

derable body of people re-entered the fort, and renewed the firing from two or three guns, the rest being, I suppose, dismounted. About nine o'clock, it being very dark, great part of our ammunition expended, our people fatigued, the tide of ebb almost done, no prospect from the eastward, and no possibility of our being of any farther service, I ordered the ships to withdraw to their former moorings. Their Lordships will see plainly by this account, that if the troops could have co-operated in this attack, his Majesty would have been in possession of Sullivan's island. But I must beg leave here to be fully understood, lest it should be imagined that I mean to throw the most distant reflection on our army: I should not discharge my conscience, were I not to acknowledge, that such was my opinion of his Majesty's troops, from the General down to the private soldier, that after I had been engaged some hours, and perceived that the troops had not got a footing on the north end of Sullivan's Island, I was perfectly satisfied that the landing was impracticable, and that the attempt would have been the destruction of many brave men, without the least probability of success; and this, I am certain, will appear to be the case, when Gen. Clinton represents his situation. The Bristol had 40 men killed, and 71 wounded; the Experiment 23 killed, and 56 wounded, and both of them suffered much in their hulls, masts, and rigging: the Active had Lieutenant Pike killed, and 6 men wounded; and the Solebay 8 men wounded. Not one man who was quartered at the beginning of the action on the Bristol's quarter-deck escaped being killed or wounded. Capt. Morris lost his right arm, and received other wounds, and is since dead; the master is wounded in his right arm, but will recover the use of it: I received several contusions at different times, but as none of them are on any part where the least danger can be apprehended, they are not worth mentioning. Lieutenants Caulfield, Molloy, and Nugent, were the Lieutenants of the Bristol in the action; they behaved so remarkably well that it is impossible to say to whom the preference is due; and so indeed I may say of all the petty officers, ship's company, and volunteers. At the head of the latter I must place Lord William Campbell, who was so condescending as to accept of the direction of some guns on the lower gun deck. His Lordship received a contusion on his left side, but I have the happiness to inform their Lordships that it has not proved of much consequence. Captain Scott, of the Experiment, lost his left arm, and is otherwise so much wounded. that I
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“fear he will not recover, I cannot conclude this letter without remarking, that when it was known that we had many men too weak to come to quarters, almost all the seamen belonging to the transports offered their service with a truly British spirit, and a just sense of the cause we are engaged in. I accepted of upwards of 50 to supply the place of the sick. The masters of many of the transports attended with their boats, but particular thanks are due to Mr. Chambers, the master of the Mercury.

“All the regiments will be embarked in a few days. The first brigade, consisting of four regiments, will sail in a day or two, under convoy, for New York; and the Bristol and Experiment will, I hope, soon follow with the remainder.

Whitehall, Aug. 24. It appears by Lieutenant Gen. Clinton's letter to Lord George Germain, dated July 8, 1776, from the camp on Long Island, Province of South Carolina, that Sir Peter Parker and the General having received intelligence that the fortress erected by the rebels on Sullivan's Island (the key to Charles Town Harbour) was in an imperfect and unfortified state, resolved to attempt the reduction thereof by a coup de main; and that, in order that the army might co-operate with the fleet, the General landed his troops on Long Island, which had been represented to him as communicating with Sullivan's Island, by a ford passable at low water; but that he, to his very great mortification, found the channel, which was reported to have been 18 inches deep at low water, to be seven feet deep; which circumstance rendered it impossible for the army to give that assistance to the fleet in the attack upon the fortress that the General intended, and which he, and the troops under his command, ardently wished to do.”

R E M A R K S.

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THE Gazette of Saturday contains more of the truth than is to be found in any government relation of any American battle fought since the commencement of the war. There is an honest bluntness in naval officers which renders them averse to say the thing which is not. A very good sailor is a very bad courtier. He scorns the art of misrepresentation, and without the cardinal virtue of lying to perfection, it is impossible to figure as a man of consequence in a drawing room. Had the whole of Sir Peter Parker's letter been published, remarks would have been superfluous, and any supplement would have been unnecessary. As the hand of official interpolation is evident in several parts of the composition, a few observations may be forgiven.

The public will recollect, what threats were denounced against the southern colonies. There is not any necessity to remind the people of the wonders which were to have been achieved in South Carolina. Mark but the event of the very first attack. A fleet commanded by an experienced commodore. Troops commanded by two very able generals, all fail in the capture of a single fort, which stands only at the entrance of the river leading to Charles Town. It is of no avail to talk of the ignorance of a pilot, or of the misinformation received by the Commodore, relative to the fathorage of the ford reaching from Long Island.

The gentlemen to whom Sir Peter Parker writes, may see things so plainly as to discern what infinite wisdom may have determined shall never happen. Mortals of a coarser mould, are only clear-sighted enough to see what has actually happened.

From the facts narrated in the Gazette, there is not any general inference to be drawn of utility to the public. The war is to be carried on with vigor. Ministry are now as certain of conquest, as they were at the commencement of the dispute.

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As all the government accounts confirm the cowardice of the Americans, we have every reason to believe the fact. There can be no doubt, but that the Provincials always RUNAWAY. The cursed misfortune is, that whenever it is judged adviseable to attack them, they do incredible mischief by---their FLIGHT.

*** The Publisher sincerely hopes the Public and his Friends will excuse the Delay that has unavoidably happened this Week, and which was not in his Power to prevent, as the Printer was taken suddenly ill.

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